trade so that the consumer gets the drugs at cheaper prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) No survey has yet been conducted to find out the real beneficiaries of DPCO, 1987. However, Government is keeping a watch on the effects of DPCO, 1987.

(c) and (d) Representation have been received from Associations of Industry, Consumers and Trade regarding trade margin and the matter is under consideration.

Import of crude and petroleum products

1545. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated quantity of crude and petroleum products required to be imported in 1990 and at what cost; what is the quantum to be imported during the current year and what was the quantum imported during the year 1970-71;

(b) what quantity of crude, will have to be imported during the early period of Eighth plan and at what cost; and

(c) what will be the estimated demand of petroleum products in 1994-95 and in 2000 AD and what will be its availability position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Plan for import of crude oil and petroleum products is finalised every year after taking into consideration demand and production in the country. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate at this stage the quantity to be imported in 1990 and the early period of Eighth Plan. The value of these imports will also depend upon the volume of imports and the prices prevalent in the international market at the time of actual imports. It is proposed to import a quantity of 18.06 and 7.51 million tonnes of crude oil and petroleum products respectively during the year 1988-89. The quantity of crude oil and petroleum products imported during 1970-71 was 11.68 and 1.09 million tonnes respectively.

(c) The estimated demand of petroleum products during 1994-95 is 74.5 million tonnes and is expected to go up to 94.4 million tonnes by 1999-2000.

Small Digital Exchanges by C-dot

1546. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) had expressed its views that it is in a position to develop small digital exchanges and opposed the import of such exchanges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Electronics has allowed import of 32,000 lines equivalent of small digital exchanges by the Department of Telecommunications from NEC of Japan; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Development of Telematics C-DOT has developed small digital exchange of 128 ports (88 lines) for applications like Private Branch Exchange and Rural Automatic Exchange.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Imports are being resorted to in respect of cases where the requirement is for a telephone exchange of more than 100 lines capacity which indigenous production is still to be built up.